

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 DRC-01 IGA-02 AGR-20

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R 040920Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7166

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANGMAI

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 15552

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: HILLTRIBE INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROPOSALS

REF.: A. STATE 190144

B. BANGKOK 13692

C. BANGKOK 11917

SUMMARY: THE CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY USOM DIRECTOR SIEGAL, CALLED ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES DAWEE CHULLASAPYA OCTOBER 3, AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM OUR INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROPOSALS IN - NORTH THAILAND. DAWEE SAID THAT HE APPROVED OF THESE PROPOSALS, AND WE AGREED TO HAVE USOM AND RTG EXPERTS DEVELOP JOINTLY A PACKAGE OF DETAILED PROJECTS TO PROVIDED AN ALTERNATE SOURCE OF INCOME TO OPIUM GROWERS AND TO WORK TOWARD ENDING OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THAILAND. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CHARGE OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY NOTING DAWEE'S CONCERN FOR SECURITY PROBELMS IF THE RTG FORCED THE HILLTRIBES
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TO END OPIUM PRODUCTION WITHOUT PROVIDING THEM AN ALTERNATE

SOURCE OF INCOME. THE CHARGE SAID THAT WE SHARE DAWEE'S CONCERN FOR SECURITY, BUT THAT WE ARE ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT NARCOTICS.

2. THE CHARGE SAID THAT WE HAD SUBMITTED TO WASHINGTON SOME GENERAL IDEAS FOR PROJECTS TO DEVELOP THE OPIUM GROWING AREAS OF NORTHERN THAILAND AND PROVIDE NEW SOURCES OF INCOME FOR THE PEOPLE LIVING THERE. WASHINGTON HAS NOW AUTHORIZED US TO DISCUSS THESE IDEAS WITH THE RTG. AS EXAMPLES WE HAVE IN MIND ACTIVITIES SUCH AS AN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, A MARKETING ANALYSIS, SUPPORT FOR THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S ZONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, LABOR INTENSIVE PUBLIC WORKS, AND REFORESTATION. CHARGE STRESSED THAT LIST IS NOT DEFINITIVE AND THAT RTG WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE IDEAS ON BEST WAY TO TACKLE PROBLEM. THE CHARGE SUGGESTED THAT USOM OFFICERS GET TOGETHER WITH RTG EXPERTS TO DEVELOP PROJECT DETAILS. USG ASSISTANCE FOR THESE PROJECTS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO, AND NOT COMPETITIVE WITH, THE REGULAR USOM BUDGET IN THAILAND. CHARGE STRESSED ALSO THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO REPLACE THE UN CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM IN THAILAND BUT TO COMPLEMENT IT WITH ADDITIONAL PROJECTS.

3. DAWEE SAID HE SUPPORTED THESE PROPOSALS. HE SAID HIS INTENTION IS TO STOP THE HILLTRIBES FROM GROWING OPIUM, BUT WITHOUT TURNING THEM AGAINST THE RTG. IF THE RTG MAKES THEM END OPIUM PRODUCTION, IT MUST BE SURE THAT THEY DO NOT SUFFER A LOSS OF INCOME. HE SAID THAT, ONCE THE HILLTRIBES FIND NEW SOURCES OF INCOME, THE RTG WILL ENFORCE THE BAN ON OPIUM GROWING.

4. THE CHARGE NOTED THAT OUR PROPOSALS INCLUDED BOTH LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS. LABOR INTENSIVE PUBLIC WORKS, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE A SHORT-TERM EFFORT TO PROVIDE INCOME TO THE TRIBES UNTIL LONGER TERM SOLUTIONS ARE FEASIBLE. WE HOPE THAT ANY PROJECTS WHICH WE DEVELOP JOINTLY WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR RTG BUDGET AND IN LONG-TERM RTG PROJECTS.

5. THE CHARGE SAID THAT WASHINGTON IS PLEASED WITH RTG ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY THE RECENT MOVES AGAINST CARAVANS, BUT THAT ENFORCEMENT IS ONLY A

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SHORT-RANGE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM. WE NEED TO MOVE AGAINST OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THAILAND NOW, AND LATER IN BURMA.

6. COMMENT: MEETING WAS DESIGNED TO AND DID OBTAIN DAWEE'S FULL APPROVAL TO GO AHEAD WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR JOINT USG/RTG PROJECTS FOR THE HILLTRIBES. USOM WILL BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY WITH DR. THALERNG THAMONG NAWANAWAT, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY

OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES, WHO WAS PRESENT
AT THE MEETING WITH DAWEE, AND WITH PIEU PUSIVAT, DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (DTEC).
MASTERS

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